

Cornfields Chapter Regular Meeting
 Sunday, March 10, 2024 @ 1:00pm
MINUTES

Invocation: Mr. Benny Bekis; Guest, Cornfields Head Start Bus Driver before serving meal while waiting for Quorum.

I. Meeting Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Council President at 2:08pm

Invocation: Mr. Julius Elwood, Interim Chief of Staff, Apache County District II

II. Roll Call

	i. Present Absent	
Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Council President	X	
Mr. Wallace James, Council Vice President		X
Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer	X	
Mr. Patrick Yazzie, Grazing Official	X	

III. Announcements/Introduction:

1. Quarterly Presentation/Update - Apache County District II, Estelle Benally and Mr. Alton Joe Shepherd, Apache County District II Supervisor
 - **Mr. Julius Elwood, Interim Chief of Staff** – Update on Road Maintenance in Cornfields. A presentation packet was distributed that explains road maintenance costs and schedules to present.
 - C-413 Apache Run Down
 - C-416 Todacheenie Road
 - C-415 Mountain Loop Road
 - C-414 Prairie Dog Road
 - There is a total of 17.10 Miles of Road Maintenance for Cornfields Community
 - There is a new legislation pertaining to the Navajo Nation Burial Policy that will change burial plot preparation where there will be no added burial at the existing Family Plots, therefore Apache County will not be able to assist.
 - **Mr. Alton Joe Shepherd, Apache County Supervisor** District II Ganado Office
 - Wheatfields was transferred to Apache County District I in Chinle. In place of that Apache County has acquired a new route in Cornfields Community C414.
 - 4/21/24 – 4/26/24 Apache County Roads Appreciation Week
 - 4/21 – Opening Event for Apache County Roads Appreciation Week
 - They will be having daily trash pick up in various communities throughout the week.
 - 4/25 – Closing Events at Ganado Office
 - Declaration of Emergency is still in effect for road blading to Elderly and High-Risk Patients within the community. You can submit names to the Chapter Manager to forward to their Office.
 - **Mr. Larry Noble, Apache County Recorder**
 - Upcoming voting and Voter’s Registration
 - St. Micheals was transferred back to District II so they have been diligently working on updating voter records.

- Presidential Preference Voting on March 19, 2024. For Republican and Democratic Party Voters. This is not open to Independent, Green or other Voting Party unless they change their Party status.
- Early Voting is open at the Fort Defiance District II Office, Ganado District II Office and the Chinle District I Office. The Fort Defiance Staff are scheduling to set up at the Snaders Probation Office for Early Voting as well.
- Please make every effort to submit your Early Voting Ballots and make sure to notify the office if you choose to be taken off the Early Ballot mailing list due to the cost of printing and postage.
- August 2024 – Voting for Primary Election is now scheduled for July 30, 2024. This date was changed due to the curing period added for sufficient count. The Navajo Nation also passed a legislation on Friday, March 08, 2024 to also change the Navajo Nation Primary Election to July 30th as well.

COMMENTS/QUESTION:

- Ceclia White, Community Member – In regards to the date change of the Primary Election, where can they get more information pertaining to this. And to the Apache County Roads Department, the gravel is diminishing on the road C415 and would like to be considered for an added layer.
- Mr. Shepherd – in response to Ms. White’s inquiry. They have established a new lot for gravel to be stored in Ganado. C-415 is on the list for rehabilitation in July 2024.
- Additional Information for Veterans - On June 15, 2024 Veterans who are trying to submit for Disability Benefits, the VA will be set up to assist with the application process at the Ganado Office from 9:00am.
- Elinita Begay, Community Member – Who takes care of N-28 from Klagetoh to Greasewood? There is about three parts from her resident where gravel or more sand could help for inclement weather.
- Mr. Shepherd – Response to Ms. Begay - they can have her complete an assessment request form to share with NDOT.

2. March 19, 2024 – Chapter will be closed due to Election
3. March 27, 2024 – Food Handler’s Training 10:00am – 2:00pm Cornfields Chapter House
4. Mrs. Elta Shepherd, Teacher – Cornfields Headstart
 - Mr. Benny Bikis, Head Start Bus Driver introduced himself on behalf the Cornfields Head Start.
 - Spring Break 03/11/24 to 03/15/24
 - Bus was not operated last week due to pending Driver’s Permit renewal. Hopefully they will be back to driving next week.
 - Requesting more enrollment for children from 3yrs to 5yrs old. They currently have 9 students but can take more up to 15.
5. Others - None

IV. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was read by Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Council President

M: Warren Thomas

S: Cecelia White

Vote: 21-0-04

V. Approval of Last Meeting Minutes: February 11, 2024

A copy of the Minutes from February 11, 2024 was distributed to attendees of the community and therefore the minutes were not read by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer.

M: Judith Shirley

S: Roland Todacheenie

Vote: 21-0-04

VI. Old Business:

1. Business Report February 2023: Ms. Alfreda Earle, Chapter Manager

-Meetings attended; Planning and Regular Chapter Meeting

-Office is open Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm, they continue to provide services with water, trash drop off and Hay \$19.08 a Bale

-They have purchased more fire wood, groceries for the community. The Chapter considers the elder

ARPA Funding for 9 projects and 5 were approved. 1.2 million 50 percent was drawn down to the chapter, the amount of \$607,000.00 was received to be used toward the following projects:

\$95,000.00 – Heating Assistance – Fire wood, Pellets or Propane. Application Drive held to have the community apply for assistance and they were reviewed. Presently they are being assessed for price and vendor selection for the wood pellets and Propane.

\$35,000.00 – Technology Upgrade – Chapter computers needed to be upgraded with software obsolete

\$65,000.00 – Food Distribution – Plans are to provide food assistance quarterly

\$40,000.00 – Hazard Pay – Pay for the staff who worked throughout the COVID 19 Pandemic. The amount that each of the workers received did not cover as much as she wished it would have since a lot of the workers placed their lives on the line working to keep services going throughout the Pandemic when most businesses were limited.

\$980,468.00 – Home Improvement/Renovations – This is the biggest project that was approved. The funds will cover materials for each home improvement and the Positions. The Chapter will hire for the following Positions: 1 Supervisor, 2 Carpenters and 2 laborers

\$95,000.00 – Septic Cleaning Services – This project was transferred to EPA and the Chapter will provide names of residents who have septic tanks and who have applied for the assistance.

75% of the allocation received needs to expended before the remaining amount to be released

\$225,000.00 – Navajo Station Powerline Project – This Project was funded for NTUA so she will use the funds for Bathroom Addition for 6 residents toward Navajo Station

\$151,872.00 - Scholarship Program for 5 Chapters; Kindahlichee, Ganado, Cornfields, Steamboat and Jedito is not confirmed.

- Any Funds not used by June 30, 2024 will be returned to the Navajo Nation.
- There were only a few Chapters who received these ARPA Funds as a Certified Chapter.
- Coal Tickets are available to be used through the end March 30, 2024. Days and Hours of Coal Distribution is limited.
- April 25, 2024 to May 08, 2024 – Candidate Filing Period for Chapter Elected Officials
- \$86,000.00 left for carry over for a fork lift and gooseneck trailer
- \$150,000.00 Community Park still in process for funding.
- Advertised Position for an Office Specialist; to assist with ARPA paperwork, making file folders

2. Financial Report for February 2024 by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer

M: Roland Todacheenie S: Warren Todacheenie Vote: 20-0-02

Warren Todacheenie; Requests that the Monthly Financial Report be included with the Minutes Financial Reports:

2. **CF-MAR2024-33:** Requesting the 25th Navajo Nation Council, Office of the President/Vice President, Judicial Branch and The Navajo Department Of Emergency Management to Develop and Adopt an Emergency Contingency Plan for the Navajo Nation to Address Infectious Disease Outbreaks, Natural Disasters, Food Shortages, Zombie Apocalypse, Economic Collapse, Extraterrestrial Contact or Invasion, Water Shortages, Warfare, Active Shooter, Electric Grid and other Unforeseen or Likely Events that May Cause a Financial Hardship, and Affect Human Life Impact on the Navajo Nation.

M: Judith Shirley

S: Brenda Thomas

Vote: 18-0-3

-Calvin Begay, Jr. – Executive Staff Assistant for Navajo Nation Department of Personnel Management, presenting the Resolution

-Chapter Training for staff and Chapter Officials for new elected Officials as part of their Phase II initiative

-Resolution Presentation – this in connection with Department of Emergency Management. There are not all emergency situations included in most Emergency declarations. We need to include all possibilities to include in the new Emergency Contingency Plan. The present Emergency Plan will be expiring soon and FEMA needs an updated Emergency Contingency Plan in order to recognize the Navajo Nation’s needs. The Zombie Apocalypse could pertain to an attack from individuals who are on meth or other recently developed illegal drugs that may cause a person to act out of the ordinary.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

Judith Shirley; Is there is any data on the Extraterrestrial Contact or Invasion? Could “Big Foot” also be included? Another item that should be considered is an Illegal Immigrant Invasion.

Kathy Chee – Has a question on how information can be recovered for Navajo Nation Employment for Retirement Services considerations? Mr. Begay will take information from her.

Warren Thomas, Community Member – Questioned pertaining if the Navajo Nation Police Department would be utilizing the same Contingency Plan or do they have their own plan as a whole or by district?

RESPONSE:

To Judith Shirley – This topic has been brought up by other Chapters and will be working with the Navajo Nation Police Chief to gather any data that they have collected thus far and this would also include the sighting of Big Foot.

To Kathy Chee – He will take her information separately to do a research for her inquiry.

To Warren Thomas – upon completing the Contingency Plan, the Navajo Nation should be working together for the same purpose.

ADDITIONAL COMMENT:

Lawrence Sam, Farm Board Member – In preparation for any Emergency, the US Government encouraged everyone to be prepared to protect ourselves and purchase self defense devices. In reality, the Navajo Nation is not totally prepared for a serious emergency such as mentioned

Judith Shirley – Added that they should consider involving our Combat Veterans how they can help to develop this plan since they have experience and being involved in Combat.

VIII. Verbal/Written Reports

1. Honorable Council Delegate Mr. Vince James – no report
 - Sunrise Low Water Crossing – Bill died after three passes and did not pass for funding consideration.
 - Due to a tax cut that former Governor Doug Ducey implemented for Individuals making more than \$500,000.00 annually there is now limited funding source.
 - Due to people with income over 500 thousand to 1 million just paying 2% for taxes, there are more people relocating from California. In California residents who make up to 1 Million pay 42% of taxes
 - AZ Sober Living Homes crisis that affected our People are continuing to be advocated for and there are several legislations being passed.
 - Legislation 255-23 – Legislation pertaining to the Virtual Attendance of Chapter Meetings. There are some Chapters that are very appreciative of this legislation. He understands that this Chapter voted in opposition, but that's okay.
 - Dropped a new Legislation pertaining to the 5 BIE School Reapportionment Plan.
 - o Hunters Point – St. Michaels, Fort Defiance
 - o Wide Ruins Community School 3 – Wide Ruins, Klagetoh
 - o Kindahlichee 4 – 2 Kindahlichee, 1 Ganado, 1 Cornfields
 - o Dilkon School 4 – 2 Dilkon, 1 Teesto, 1 At Large
 - o Greasewood – 1 GW, 1 Cornfields
 - He will be traveling to Las Vegas next week, but will be based on his schedule this week.
 - Week of March 18th – Washington, DC
 - Storage Building Funding – Pending decision for construction at this time.
 - Water Rights Litigation – He continues to participate in Meetings held every Sunday, this is very important for our children and new life to be born.

COMMENT:

Mr. Warren Thomas – Would like to suggest any ARPA Funding not being used to be used toward improving the roads or Navajo Nation Government Buildings if Other Delegates are opposing Hardship Funds.

RESPONSE:

Honorable James responded to state that this was also brought up for alternative use of funding but Road Improvement does not qualify for Covid-19 mitigation.

2. Chapter Officials

Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Council President – Is really appreciative of the staff who work very hard daily. He would like to plan to take the staff somewhere to share a meal sometime in the future.

Mr. Wallace James, Jr. Council Vice-President - Absent

Ms. Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer – No report

3. Grazing Member Mr. Patrick Yazzie

2 reports for Livestock damage

1 Report to Animal Control in reference to a dog bite for NHA

Hay Distribution held – 5 bales given to Livestock Inventory Permittees then there was a second round for non-compliant permit holders who did not comply with the livestock Inventory Count.

Cornfields Community Baptist Church research – for a Lease renewal request. Land Users consent and Petition are still pending.

03/21/24 Important Permittee Meeting with Department of Agriculture Mr. Ray Castillo regarding Grazing Act NRIA – Navajo Range Improvement Act. There are currently 78 members but there will a change coming to change Grazing Official to Range Technician.

NRIA – New plan for Grazing Act – Navajo Nation to make changes to oversee the Grazing Permits and Probate process.

Office of Range Management – Needs to tally which Permits are still active and needs to be verified.

04/01/24 District Grazing Meeting – Greasewood Springs Chapter 9am

Equine Reward Program - March 12th, 19th, 26th to be held at the Navajo Nation Fair Grounds - 3ys and older for \$250, no branded equine.

Burial Changes – Family who has a family plot needs to apply for a new land withdrawal with the Navajo Nation Land Administration.

4. Farm Board – Mr. Lawrence Sam

- 27 people came to their meeting in February which was a record.
- Drought Insurance funds were approved from 2017 will be drawn down to the Chapter to use for planting season.
- There will be assistance for farming if you are interested to plant in your existing plot, come to scheduled meetings for March.

5. CLUPC

- No Report

6. School Announcements:

- a. Ganado Unified Schools – Wallace James, Jr., School Board Clerk – No Report
- b. Greasewood Springs Schools – No Report

Judith Shirley – asked Mr. Morgan Cleveland to request for a report from Ganado Unified School District other than Mr. Wallace James, Jr. Then Ms. Linda Youvella was chosen to represent five schools and should be requested to report on behalf of Greasewood Schools.

7. Other = None

M: Warren Todacheenie

S: Cecilia White

Vote: 15-0-02

IX. Next Scheduled Meetings:

1. Next Planning Meeting
Date: Tuesday – April 02, 2024 @ 4:00 PM
2. Next Regular Meeting
Date: Sunday – April 14, 2024 @ 1:00 PM
3. Farm Board – March 12, 2024 9:00a
4. Land Use Planning: March 13, 2024 9:00am
5. CLUPC – April 01, 2024 6:00pm
6. Senior Social – March 20, 2024 at 11:00am

X. Benediction: Provided by Honorable Vince James, Council Delegate

XI. Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 6:08pm By Mr. Morgan Cleveland, Sr. Council President

M: Cecelia White

S: Brenda Thomas

Vote: 15-0-02

Prepared and submitted by Sharon Smith, Council Secretary/Treasurer on Sunday, March 10, 2024.